

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 SS-20

NSC-07 SY-04 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /072 W

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O R 061205Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3106

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10421

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, IN

SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER

REF: STATE 170297

BELOW IS LATEST INFORMATION WE HAVE ON FOUR QUESTIONS POSED
PARA 2 REFTEL:

(A) VICE CONSUL SHERIDAN LAST SAW HARCOS AND FLETCHER AUGUST 5; SHE IS SCHEDULED TO SEE THEM AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7.

(B) DURING AUGUST 5 VISIT, THE PRISONERS LOOKED WELL. BOTH TOLD THE CONSULAR OFFICER THAT THEY WERE OKAY BUT A LITTLE WEAK. CONSUL BALL AND VICE CONSUL SHERIDAN FEEL THAT THEY LOOK ABOUT THE SAME AS THE FIRST TIME THEY SAW THEM IN EARLY JUNE BUT PALER AND THINNER. BOTH PRISONERS ARE STILL ACCEPTING NASAL FORCE-FEEDING. NEW DELHI 9996 REPORTS THE LATEST INFORMATION ON WEIGHT LOSS WHICH CONGEN CALCUTTA HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACQUIRE. (HARCOS DOWN TO 130 LBS FROM 150 AND FLETCHER TO 123 LBS FROM 142).

(C) THE TRIAL JUDGE OF THE CALCUTTA CITY SESSIONS COURT HANDLING THE CASE IS SCHEDULED TO RULE TODAY (AUGUST 6) ON WHETHER THE DEFENSE LAWYERS SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO THE RECORDS OF THE CASE (CALCUTTA'S 1570, REPEATED TO WASHINGTON AUGUST 1).

NO TRIAL DATE HAS BEEN FIXED. CONSUL GENERAL PICKERING HAS APPOINTMENTS TODAY WITH BOTH PRESIDING JUDGE AND DEFENSE

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LAWYERS TO DISCUSS THE CASE. HE WILL ALSO BE SEEING THE DEPUTY

POLICE COMMISSIONER (SPECIAL BRANCH) AND WILL TRY TO GET A
BETTER READING ON THE CHARGES AGAINST HARCOS/FLETCHER.

(D) THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENTS OTHER THAN
PARLIAMENTARY REPLY REPORTED IN NEW DELHI 9996. GOI OFFICIALS
ARE STILL SAYING THEY ARE OPTIMISTIC THE CASE WILL BE SETTLED
SOON (NEW DELHI 10378).
MOYNIHAN

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